

TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence 15 August 1956
SUBJECT : Next Steps Regarding Project AQUATONE

The following is an outline of what I believe should be our position with respect to the status of AQUATONE in discussions with Secretary Quarles, General Twining and others in the USAF.

1. The political decision most to be desired is that which would permit maximum capability operations to be undertaken simultaneously from Adana and Wiesbaden beginning as soon as possible after the London Conference, these operations to continue until some twenty (20) deep penetration missions had been flown.
2. Any presentation to the political authorities will set forth only this proposed and desired plan of campaign. If the desired permission is decisively refused with an indication that the refusal will be for a substantial period of time, alternative courses of action may be discussed in such presentation.
3. In the event of such a decisive negative decision which is expected to stand for a considerable period, the AQUATONE capability will be available for use in the Far East against Communist China. Since it is the optimum U.S. capability it should be used in this Theater and steps will be taken to arrange for the promptest possible redeployment of an AQUATONE Detachment from Europe to the Far East.
4. If it is determined that an AQUATONE Detachment is to be redeployed promptly to the Far East, or even if the decision is that the first two Detachments will remain in Europe and Detachment C would be deployed to the Far East in November, the preferred base for AQUATONE operations is [REDACTED]. It is believed to be no more undesirable on grounds of security than bases in [REDACTED] and significantly better so far as operational considerations are concerned. The second choice from an operational standpoint would be [REDACTED] and operations should be based there if political considerations prohibit operations from Japan. (It should be remarked that the political considerations that would prohibit AQUATONE operations from Japan would have precisely the same significance for Black Night.)

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RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Project Director

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